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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/938,401	08/23/2001	Michael G. Lisanke	SOM920010004US1	9934

23334 7590 10/23/2006

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EXAMINER

BADII, BEHRANG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3694

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C.

121:

I. Claims 24-27, drawn to a method on an end-user device to prevent an unauthorized recording of multimedia content as a result of rendering at least part of the multimedia content, the method comprising the steps of: using *a sound card* and blocking access to an *input port of a sound card* of the end-user device, which input port could receive any part of a multimedia content, the blocking being accomplished by *opening a wavein device driver for the sound card* of the end-user device to *prevent use of the input port of such sound card*, classified in class 705, subclass 55.

II. Claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 14 and 18, drawn to a method on an end-user device to prevent an unauthorized recording of multimedia content as a result of rendering at least part of the multimedia content, the method comprising: prior to decryption of the encrypted multimedia content, blocking access to multimedia content input devices and/or ports of the end-user device, the blocking being accomplished by opening all multimedia content input devices and/or ports of the end-user system device that can receive any part of a multimedia content, to prevent use of such multimedia content input devices and/or ports, thereby preventing re-recording of decrypted multimedia content by the end-user device, classified in class 705, subclass 57.

Art Unit: 3621

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as using *a sound card* and blocking access to an *input port of a sound card* of the end-user device, which input port could receive any part of a multimedia content, the blocking being accomplished by *opening a wavein device driver for the sound card* of the end-user device to *prevent use of the input port of such sound card*. Invention II has separate utility such as prior to decryption of the encrypted multimedia content, blocking access to multimedia content input devices and/or ports of the end-user device, the blocking being accomplished by opening all multimedia content input devices and/or ports of the end-user system device that can receive any part of a multimedia content, to prevent use of such multimedia content input devices and/or ports, thereby preventing re-recording of decrypted multimedia content by the end-user device. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Art Unit: 3621

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Behrang Badii whose telephone number is 571-272-6879. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 571-272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Art Unit: 3621

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 3600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is **(571) 272-3600**.

Behrang Badii
Patent Examiner
Art Unit ~~3621~~ 3694

BB


ELLA COLBERT
PRIMARY EXAMINER